

Detect & Protect

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The Suspect/Counterfeit Items Quarterly Newsletter

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Is the price too good..?	1
Counterfeit Quiz	1
Counterfeits and the Economy	2
Around Sandia	2

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Suspect/Counterfeit Items

Quarterly Meeting

When: December 2nd, 2015

Where: Bldg. 823 Breezeway

If you are an assigned point of contact you are automatically enrolled to attend the quarterly meetings.

If you are not an assigned point of contact, email sqasci@sandia.gov to sign up to attend this meeting.

Request Suspect/Counterfeit Items Training for your group!

To request training contact Gabrielle Holcomb at grholco@sandia.gov or sqasci@sandia.gov.

We will prepare a presentation about suspect/counterfeit items tailored to your group. This would be offered as a live class.

TEDS Training Offered Online.

SCA050: Suspect/Counterfeit Items Awareness Training

Is the price too good to be true?

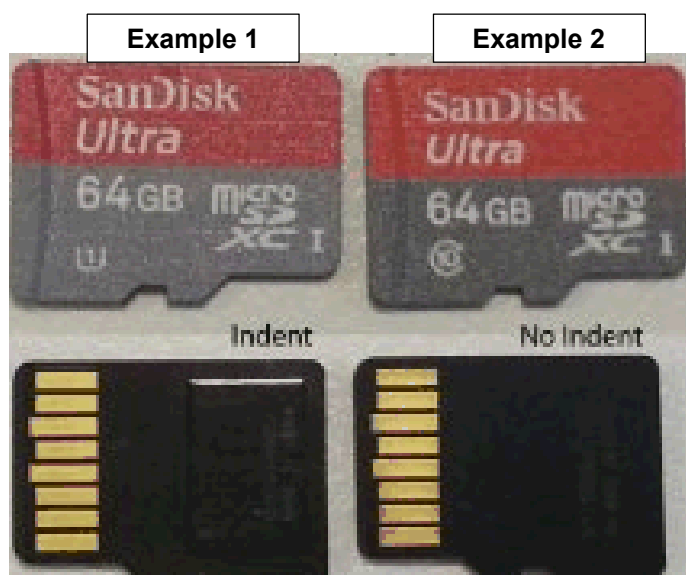
When making purchases, I never really thought about the problems that there could be with items that are cheap. I always knew that buying a cheap "knockoff" could mean that the item might not last as long but I never thought that it could mean life or death.

Counterfeit items are flooding our markets and online retailer's storefronts. Counterfeit items are not safe; they often don't meet safety or industry standards, and use substandard or even dangerous materials that would not normally be within the item (i.e. arsenic, lead). Buying a cheap phone charger online that turns out to be counterfeit could result in a fire which could cause property damage, injury, or even death. Buying cheap medicines that turn out to be counterfeit could contain ingredients that act like poisons or they may not contain enough of the ingredients that make the medicines work.

Every consumer needs to be aware of the possibility of receiving items that are counterfeit as well as how to prevent and identify these items. Some basic methods for reducing the likelihood of purchasing and receiving counterfeits include:

- Look at the price, if it is significantly below the MSRP or retail value, don't buy it.
- Look at the source, is the supplier an authorized distributor? If you don't know check the manufacturer's webpage as they often list authorized distributors.
- Look at the country of origin or place where the item will be shipping from, try to buy items that ship from within the US (even if the item might be manufactured overseas).
- See also "[Tips for Consumers](#)" by the US Chamber of Commerce.

Counterfeit Quiz



Answer is on pg. 2

"Fraud is the daughter of greed."

— Jonathan Gash



Counterfeit Quiz

Answer: Example 2 is counterfeit. The counterfeit example has slightly different print and it is missing the indent.

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Visit our webpage!

<http://cfo.sandia.gov/procure/SCI/pages/index.html>



Counterfeits and the Economy

Have you seen counterfeits hit the news? An increasing number of news reports have been aimed at the consumer to increase awareness about counterfeit items and the dangers that they pose. There are many reasons why news reports have been increasing for example an exploding phone or a house fire definitely catches the viewers' attention but what is rarely reported is the economic impact of these items.

Commercial companies such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), General Electric (GE), and Johnson & Johnson, just to name a few, have created anti-counterfeiting campaigns not only to keep their consumers safe but because counterfeit items cost their companies millions in revenue each year. Counterfeiting is no longer an acceptable risk as it costs the US approximately \$250 Billion dollars annually and an estimated 1.7 Trillion dollars annually worldwide ([IACC,2015](#)).

Counterfeiters don't care if they provide safe or even operational products and the definitely don't care about the economy. Yet they are successful as they play into the consumers need for cheap merchandise. What is rarely realized is that the money spent buying counterfeit goods takes away from legitimate companies trying to make a profit (which translates to it takes away jobs here in the US). To make matters worse counterfeiters often encroach on intellectual property rights which means that innovations found here in the US that could help build our economy up will not gain the attention or success they deserve. The true innovator will not see the successes from their own inventions, but the counterfeiter will become rich.

As a consumer, we have to be wary about counterfeit and pirated goods. The responsibility of preventing and detecting these items lands on each individual. So how do I prevent and detect these items at home or at work? Check out these [tips for consumers](#) from the US Chamber of Commerce and take the Suspect/Counterfeit Items Awareness Training online in TEDS (course number SCA050) to find out more. You can also contact the Suspect/Counterfeit Items Program Coordinator at sqasci@sandia.gov to ask questions or request training with your group.

Around Sandia

Reports of suspect/counterfeit items at Sandia during FY2015 include items such as ratchet tie down straps, electronics, phone chargers, and lifting equipment. Some of the reporting trends within the DOE complex include: fasteners, electrical components and electronics, scaffolding, and phone chargers. Remember anything that can be made can be counterfeit. If an item does not seem right, ask questions and email the Suspect/Counterfeit Items team at sqasci@sandia.gov.

Quarterly Drawing Results

All inquiries or questions pertaining to Suspect/Counterfeit Items are entered for a quarterly drawing for a \$25 gift card. This quarter's winner is Shane Page (6012). Congratulations and thank you for reporting items to our team! I would also like to thank everyone who made inquiries this last quarter, thank you for staying aware and asking questions, you all are making a huge difference in the fight against counterfeits!